

general, continued management of this area as Gamelands by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission should allow this area to become one of the most important core refuge areas in the region, particularly given its connections to other sections of the Butner-Falls of the Neuse Gamelands, the Little River and Flat River Corridors, and (at least partially) to the Eno River State Park and other natural areas upstream.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FAUNA:

Several typical Piedmont species associated with large tracts of forest, particularly bottomlands, were recorded in this tract, including red-shouldered hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), barred owls (*Strix varia*), hairy woodpeckers (*Picoides villosus*) and pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). The presence of ground-nesting birds, such as woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) and Louisiana waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), is also indicative of the lack of human disturbance, as is the occurrence of large snakes like the black racer (*Coluber constrictor*). Still other forest interior species, including a number of neotropical migrants, are likely to be recorded if a survey is conducted during the summer nesting period (the one sample trip to this site was made in early spring).

Several large beaver impoundments were encountered during the survey, which support populations of (*Lutra canadensis*), wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and eastern newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), all of which benefit from the creation of permanent, lentic habitats. In other areas, smaller and more isolated floodplain pools were found that provide nesting habitat for spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and probably several other species that need fish-free pools for breeding. Generally, the floodplain along this reach of the Eno appears to be wide enough for a variety of different wetland and bottomland communities to coexist.

The aquatic habitat within the Eno itself, however, is a far cry from the nationally significant reach located upstream. Sand bars and silt are prominent features in this reach, indicating the existence of significant non-point sources of pollution upstream. Only a few dead mussel shells (*Elliptio sp.*) were seen during the site visit and even the disturbance-tolerant Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) appears to be rare in this section of the river.

A fairly diverse fish community once existed in this reach, including populations of the Carolina madtom (*Noturus furiosus*), state listed as Special Concern, as well as the dollar sunfish (*Lepomis marginatus*) and longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*), both primarily coastal species and rare within the Piedmont. Almost all the records date from before the closure of the Falls Lake Dam, however, which undoubtedly had a major impact on the entire fauna of aquatic organisms inhabiting the upper Neuse River Basin.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FLORA:

The bluffs and slopes along the south bank of the Eno River at Willie Duke's Bluff, E-6, harbor an unusual concentration of rare and spectacular plant species and the mature hardwood forest habitat. The alluvial and mesic forest communities are characterized by many massive swamp chestnut oaks (*Quercus michauxii*) and northern shagbark hickories (*Carya ovata*). The